

Contradancing

at

The Summer Solstice Folk Music, Dance and Storytelling Festival,

June 25-27, 2004 on the campus of Soka University



Contradance has been a major feature of the Summer Solstice Folk Music, Dance and Storytelling Festival for many years. A series of excellent contradance workshops during the day, this year featuring callers Susan Michaels and Seth Tepfer, and the bands *Turtle Creek*, *Atlantic Crossing* and *The Syncopaths*, culminates on Sunday afternoon with a two and an half hour “Hard Core Contras” Dance, with the band *The Blue Ghillies*.

In addition there are contradances on Friday and Saturday evening of the Festival.

On Friday, June 25 starting at 7:30 the bands are *Nightingale* (9:00-10:30) and *The Syncopaths*. (7:30-9:00)



Jeremiah McLane, Keith Murphy, Becky Tracy

The Vermont trio *Nightingale* consisting of Becky Tracy (fiddle), Keith Murphy (piano, guitar, foot percussion), and Jeremiah McLane (piano, accordion). Their music travels through Quebec, Newfoundland, Ireland, France, Scandinavia and beyond to produce a blend of Northern music that is unique and compelling. With a core of fiddle, accordion and guitar and the unrelenting rhythm of French Canadian foot percussion, *Nightingale* has consistently won the enthusiasm of contra dancers and has

appeared with many of the country's finest dance callers. The combination of these three musicians is not to be missed.

With influences ranging from jazz to rock, *The Syncopaths* have delighted Southern California contradancers with eclectic traditionalism. The band's signature sound showcases soaring improvisations with highly syncopated rhythms. Band members are well known in Southern California. Christa Burch plays bodhran with several contra and Irish bands around Los Angeles. Multi-instrumentalist Bill Flores has played music professionally for over 25 years and has performed or recorded with artists such as Bob Dylan, Stevie Ray Vaughn and Mike Seeger. Scottish fiddle champion Ryan McKasson, who began studying violin at three, has appeared with Richard Green and with the Los Angeles Scottish Fiddlers. Known for his energetic piano style, Jeff Spero has played for dances and festivals throughout Southern California. Jeff is co-editor of the book “Southern California Twirls” and calls for many regional contradances.

On Saturday Night, June 27 starting at 7:00 the bands are *The Monks* (7:00-8:45) and *Domino* (8:45-10:30)

The Monks are a raging, Old Time band from Bloomington, Indiana. Following in the footsteps of the Skillet Lickers and the Stripling Brothers they're pros at getting the dance floor hopping. Members of *The Monks* have won top honors at Mt. Airy and Clifftop Old Time music competitions, and all four are veteran dance camp instructors. As a band, they continue to play nationally to rave reviews, backing up this country's finest dance callers.



Sam Barlett, Claudio Buchwald Abby Ladin and Frank Hall.
(Frank will be replaced by Evie Ladin, not shown, at all festival performances)

The Monks are Claudio Buchwald, Abby & Evie Ladin, and Sam Bartlett. Pulitzer prize-winning author Annie Proulx wrote about them, "If you're not dead The Monks will get you dancing."

Domino, from Canada, is a group of three musicians and composers who channel their original repertoire in the spirit of tradition and who interpret traditional tunes in their own style! A very eloquent image of traditional music anchored in the twenty-first century. *Domino* is made up of Richard Forest, Rachel Aucoin, and Sabin Jaques. Richard Forest has played fiddle for over 25 years and is a central figure in the Quebec traditional music revival. Rachel Aucoin grew up steeped in the Acadian heritage and now is considered one to the best quebecois-style piano accompanists. She has a percussive, colorful and sensitive style. Sabin Jaques is a diatonic accordion virtuoso whose "swing" is unsurpassed. He is widely regarded as one of Quebec's best.

Both nights feature callers *Sue Michaels* and *Seth Tepfer*.



Susan Michaels has been calling contras, squares and family dances for 15 years and has toured extensively throughout the western US and Canada. Susan offers contemporary and traditional dances that are smooth and interesting. Susan hasn't written any books or received any awards but she's a damn good caller. *Seth Tepfer* is "Atlanta's Dance Magician," calling dances for adults and children like you've never seen before. Known for his infectious energy, his short walk-thru's, and his 'hash-contras', Seth's warm enthusiasm is contagious,



and gets everyone moving, smiling, and having a great time. Whether squares, contras, or other folk dances, you can be certain that all involved - novices and experienced dancers alike - will amble away happy and eager to dance more!

More information about the Summer Solstice Folk Music, Dance and Storytelling Festival is available from the California Traditional Music Society's Website www.CTMSFolkMusic.org or by calling the CTMS office 818 817-7756.